



## **PUBLIC MEETING**

September 10, 2019  
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers Room 330.

### **Roll Call**

Chairman Jim McCormick called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Commissioner Susan Good Geise and Commissioner Andy Hunthausen were present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Nicho Hash, Jacqueline Isaly, Drenda Niemann, Chris Sinrud, J. DeArnicis-Danesi, Jess Hegstrom, Wynn Randall, Kevin Wright, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone recited the pledge.

### **2019 National Suicide Prevention Week.**

Commissioner Hunthausen read the proclamation declaring the week of September 8 through 14, 2019 as Suicide Prevention Week.

Jess Hegstrom, Public Health Suicide Prevention Coordinator, stated the County is working toward educating as many people as possible to have the necessary tools to intervene on the behalf of others that could be struggling. While grim there is a lot of hope that the community can do together to prevent suicide. Ms. Hegstrom reviewed the schedule of various Question, Persuade, Refer trainings that will occur this week and other activities throughout the month of September. She gave an overview of the training and help that is available for first responders dealing with the aftermath of suicide and other traumatic calls. She also gave an extensive overview of the Man Therapy Program that is an anti-stigma campaign with the focal point being a humorous website. It is a comprehensive website with a mental health screener that anyone can take anonymously and depending on the response it could connect the person to the suicide prevention lifeline for assistance. Since the program began one year ago 2,574 people visited the site, spending an average of 3 minutes and 30 seconds on the site, with 685 completing the screener and over 200 people concerned about a man in their lives. There are also 37 different activities titled a guys' night out for men to attend.

Matt Furlong, Behavioral Health Local Advisory Council Chair, stated their name has changed from Mental Health Local Advisory Council as people have a difficult time navigating services. He thanked the Commission for the staff support that have been given to the Council. Mr. Furlong gave an overview of the activities going on in the community.

Mary Ann Dunwell, Representative for House District 84, thanked the Commission for the funding of a suicide prevention coordinator, support of the Local Advisory Council. She gave an overview

of a practice in policy called Handle with Care that deals with youth and is a cooperative relationship between law enforcement and schools.

Ron Wiens, Representing Shodair Hospital, thanked the Commission, Jesse Hegstrom and everyone for all that is being done. Mr. Wiens commented on the most at risk group are men in his age group noting that half of the suicides in 2018 were men 45 and older. Through research he found isolation and independence are what it comes down to and keeping men of this age group connected is a key. Man Therapy is a great way to do it.

Jacqueline Isaly, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, stated she has lost people in her personal life due to suicide and coming from a small community she understands the impact of suicide. She is honored to be in Lewis and Clark County to see the strong community effort towards the issue of suicide and thanked everyone.

**Contract Amendment #1 Between Lewis and Clark Public Health and Grit Digital Health, LLC. (Jacqueline Isaly)**

Jacqueline Isaly, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, presented contract amendment No. 1 to the contract with Grit Digital Health, LLC for renewal and year two of the Man Therapy campaign. Ms. Isaly gave an overview of the campaign to help eliminate the mental health stigma that uses humor. In 2018 the Lewis and Clark Suicide Prevention Coalition identified this program as a method of reaching the population most at risk of suicide in the county and state. She gave an overview of the activities during 2018. As of last week, of the 2,574 people that visited the site 21 percent were return visitors with 57 people linked to the suicide prevention lifeline. Lewis and Clark County is the first county in Montana to try Man Therapy with other counties now following. The contract is not to exceed \$5,000, a 50 percent discount, with a contract period of September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020. Staff recommends approval of the contract amendment with Grit Digital Health, LLC.

**PUBLIC COMMENT -**

Commissioner Good Geise asked for public comment from the previously read proclamation regarding suicide prevention week be included in the public comment for this item.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Hunthausen and seconded by Commissioner Good Geise. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

**Consent Action Items**

- a. Resolution 2019-89 Declaring County Property Surplus Property. (Amy Reeves)
- b. Resolution 2019-90 Declaring County Property Surplus Property. (Amy Reeves)

Roger Baltz reported on the consent action items 2 a-b and recommended approval.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Good Geise and seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

**Contract Amendment No. 1 Between Lewis and Clark County and Montana Internet Corporation. (Chris Sinrud)**

Chris Sinrud, Information Technology & Services Deputy Director and Operations Manager, presented the contract with Montana Internet Corporation (MIC) for the tower that will be located on the County Public Works Campus. The contract provides project management, tower assembly and erection, and safety management at the Public Works site. MIC also assesses the existing towers and the tower work for the radio implementations for the wireless network. The work was

approved in the FY20 budget as submitted to the Joint Commissions. Staff recommends approval of the contract with Montana Internet Corporation.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Good Geise and seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

**Contract Between Lewis and Clark Public Health and Ned Cooney. (Jacqueline Isaly)**

Jacqueline Isaly, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, presented the contract with Ned Cooney for Early Childhood Coalition strategic planning and coordinator orientation. The intent was outlined in the previously approved Strengthening Montana's Early Childhood Services grant received from the Early Childhood Services Bureau. The contract is not to exceed \$5,000 with a contract period of August 30, 2019 through December 31, 2019. Staff recommends approval of the contract with Ned Cooney.

Ms. Isaly explained Ned Cooney is one of the only other early childhood coordinators that is a contractor in the state. It was thought that his experience functioning as the coordinator but not as an employee of an organization was valuable as well as the experience in strategic planning.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Hunthausen and seconded by Commissioner Good Geise. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

**Public comment on any public matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not on the agenda above.**

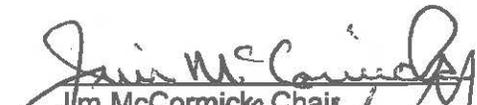
Mary Ann Dunwell, Representative for House District 84, reviewed the Youth Risk Behavior survey 2019 data on Montana middle and high school students regarding suicide prevention.

Representative Dunwell stated they have interim committees between sessions and she is part of the Local Government Interim Committee partnering with municipalities and county jurisdictions. The next meeting is Thursday, September 12th and noted she can bring anything that the Commission would like her to bring to the committee.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:57 am.

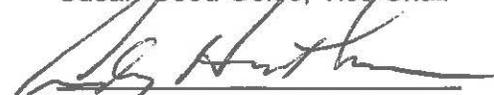
LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Jim McCormick, Chair



Susan Good Geise, Vice Chair



Andy Hunthausen, Member

ATTEST:



Paulette DeHart, Clerk of the Board